

# Smith Club of Minnesota

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Betsey Whitbeck '71  
952-974-8382  
[bwhitbeck@att.net](mailto:bwhitbeck@att.net)

### Vice-President

Becky McManus '78  
651-224-9384  
[mcmanus.becky@gmail.com](mailto:mcmanus.becky@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Stephanie Frost '77  
651-773-5376  
[larkfrost@comcast.net](mailto:larkfrost@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

Maggie Vecchio-Smith '99  
[mvecchiosmith@yahoo.com](mailto:mvecchiosmith@yahoo.com)  
612-708-2008

### Alumnae Admissions

• Caitlin Boley '02  
785-979-2379  
[cboleyn@alumnae.smith.edu](mailto:cboleyn@alumnae.smith.edu)

• Justina Roberts '06  
612-819-1732  
[justina.a.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:justina.a.roberts@gmail.com)

• Anna Mikelson '06  
612-354-3507  
[annamikelson@gmail.com](mailto:annamikelson@gmail.com)

### Communications/Membership

Marty Swain '71  
952-474-2466  
[mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu)

## Other Important Club Contacts

**Minnesota Young Alums:** Join on Facebook, or e-mail  
[justina.a.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:justina.a.roberts@gmail.com)

**Book Club:** Jean Paul  
[jeanmpaul@comcast.net](mailto:jeanmpaul@comcast.net)

**Knitting Club:** Brigid Brindley  
[mbbrindley@comcast.net](mailto:mbbrindley@comcast.net)

**Oral History Project:** Laurie Kramer  
[kramer@visi.com](mailto:kramer@visi.com)

## A Word From the President . . .

—Betsey Whitbeck

With winter, the Smith Club's festivities move indoors, and so it was with our labyrinth exploration on November 18. Eighteen of us met at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, where a nearly full-sized labyrinth printed on canvas was laid out on the floor. Following our "walking" of the labyrinth, we were fortunate to enjoy an hour's discussion led by M.J. McGregor, friend to many in the Smith Club although a Macalester graduate herself. M.J. supplied numerous visual aids focusing on the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Chartres, where the world's principal labyrinth was laid into stone in the nave around the turn of the last millennium.



M.J. taught us about the Chartres labyrinth's history as well as about the development of the labyrinth in general. Many ancient civilizations had labyrinthine forms that were used for meditation, entertainment, and religious pursuits, such as those the Syrians created and those of Roman design in Herculaneum. Fascination with the Chartres labyrinth led M.J. to write her doctoral thesis on experiences people have had when walking it. In that vein, each of the attendees commented on her experience or on thoughts she may have had while walking. As usual with Smithies, it was a thought-provoking discussion. We then adjourned to the Woman's Club for a delicious dinner and lots of conversation.

On another note, our fall Smith Day event was a great success again this year, enabling our club to subsidize two Praxis internships

(see page 3) and make the annual contribution to our endowed scholarship fund which, by the way, is working its way back up to the more than \$2 million value it had achieved before the economic slide. Heartfelt thanks go to Smith Day co-chairs Pamela Coleman and Cybel Monson, as well as to our entire group of workers and donors. Peggy Martin hosted a fun wrap-up meeting at her home later in the fall, and when polled, the group emphatically voted to have another Smith Day next year! Even better, we have our co-chairs in place already (see page 2).

More activities are coming up in the next few months, like a creative, fun beading evening. Bring your old beads or buy new ones to create a fashionable concoction for yourself

or someone else. The main attraction, of course, will be just spending an evening with the interesting and, in my view, quite enlightened women from Smith and their friends and family members. We always welcome non-Smith guests to our club meetings and activities. We'll announce details of this and other events by e-mail, so watch your messages. If you don't use e-mail, contact me (Betsey—see info at left) so you're sure to be included.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about our ongoing Oral History Project (page 3), and specifics of the recent Smith Day fundraiser (page 2). Please do join us at our activities, general meetings, and lectures, which are informative and fun. I promise it will be worth your while!

## Do You Subscribe to the Smith News Tracker?

This is a really interesting listing of recent articles in the media that mention Smith faculty, students, alumnae, or staff or that pertain to issues of higher education. What you receive if you sign up is a lovely, formatted e-mail every week or so with descriptions and links to articles. Here's an example that was mentioned in a recent message: An interview with Carol Christ on her December trip to India regarding women's education. [www.indianexpress.com/news/a-liberal-arts-education-prepares-you-for-a-professional-life/726798/1](http://www.indianexpress.com/news/a-liberal-arts-education-prepares-you-for-a-professional-life/726798/1).

To sign up, simply send a message to [mhobbes@email.smith.edu](mailto:mhobbes@email.smith.edu).

### Smith Day 2010—Safe Travels for All!

Our 79th Smith Day, Great Escapes, was a wonderful success and fun for all. From the “Paris & Milan” room (women’s clothing) to the “Blackwell’s Bookstore” (books), wonderful finds and bargains galore were available to the astute shopper. As always, the Bakery (“French Quarter”) and the luncheon (“A Hillside in Tuscany”) afforded delectable treats. And the “Silk Road” (Silent Auction) was full to the hilt with treasures.

Our take for this annual fund-raiser for Smith College scholarships was over \$10,000—very respectable given the economic situation. Hopefully many recent alums discovered that this is The Place to find their designer professional and casual clothes and to meet other Smithies and/or entertain their guests. Remember, all the funds raised go to our endowed Minnesota scholarship fund, which sends local young women to Smith, as well as to Praxis scholarships, which provide internships to current Smith students from Minnesota. It’s a WIN-WIN any way you look at it.

**... and Smith Day 2011!**

**Save the Date:** Saturday, Sept 10th

And announcing the best news of all:

Our **co-chairs** for the event are Barbara Klaas '74 and Peggy Leppik '65, with yeoman help from Lisa Peilen '69. This is a **marvelous team**, so start getting excited!

**A Purse of Gold  
(found at Smith Day)**

Did you, by chance, donate a lovely little navy blue purse to Smith Day? If you did, are you missing a gold necklace? The bag is rectangular, about 5 x 8 in., quilted, with a gold chain and leather strap.



The purchaser of the purse, Nilgun Tuna '71, found the necklace inside and would like to find its rightful owner. If it's yours, please contact Nilgun at 651-224-7949 or [nilguntuna@nytarchitects.com](mailto:nilguntuna@nytarchitects.com).



**Clockwise, beginning just above:** Barbara Klaas '74 and Mary Taylor '55 take a breather from sorting; Betsey Whitbeck '71 and Shirley Mah Kooyman '73 make last-minute raffle ticket sales during lunch; Stephanie Ross '86 and Patty Schmidt '91 catch up over lunch; Pamela Coleman '74 models some Silent Auction items; Maggie Vecchio-Smith '99 completes Treasurer's duties, baby in hand; Peggy Leppik '65 puts together an “ensemble” (?) in women's clothes.

G  
R  
E  
A  
T

E  
S  
C  
A  
P  
E  
S

A  
N  
D

A

G  
R  
E  
A  
T

T  
I  
M  
E



### A Personal Praxis Experience

**Note:** The following report was filed by Maren Delap '11, who was a recipient of one of last summer's Praxis scholarships. For the past several years our club has provided funds for two Minnesota Smith students to participate in Praxis internships, which are distributed by the college.

\*\*\*\*\*

For my Praxis internship I worked at the Chrysalis Center, which is part of Tubman Family Alliance in Minneapolis. I worked as a Resource Counselor, which means I answered phones and helped clients face-to-face with their individual situations. Clients, primarily women, come to Chrysalis for a variety of reasons. Most often I helped women who were seeking a divorce but didn't know how to begin or how to get legal assistance. Another common issue we dealt with was domestic violence. Many women call in looking for an Order for Protection or a safety plan, or just to talk about what options are available to them. Many clients are low-income and

are looking for financial assistance with food, housing, bills, or low-cost services.

During my time at Chrysalis I learned a lot about the many resources available in the Twin Cities. Chrysalis itself offers services for chemical rehabilitation, mental health, and legal representation in family law cases. Tubman also has several shelter locations for women (and their children) who have been victims of domestic violence. Beyond Chrysalis and Tubman, I have become more aware of programs offered through the government and nonprofit organizations for low-income individuals. I have encountered everything from GLBT social networking to Section 8 housing to finding jobs for ex-felons.

I am majoring in Sociology at Smith and am particularly interested in class differences. During my internship I talked with many people from lower socioeconomic classes. In working with them, I learned so much about factors that may contribute to socioeconomic standing and also what common burdens people carry. Thank you for this valuable opportunity, which I know will be beneficial in my professional future.

### Book Club May Gain New Life!

Our illustrious book club coordinator, Jean Paul '63, recently heard from an alum who had moved to the Twin Cities and was anxious to join the book club. That inspired Jean to revive the club, which has been on hiatus for a short while. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 27, at 7:00 pm at the home of Holly Dowds. Contact Jean at 763-781-2366 or [jeanmpaul@comcast.net](mailto:jeanmpaul@comcast.net) for details!



### Addresses, addresses . . .

**Please** don't forget to update your contact info (address, e-mail, phone) with the Alumnae Association if you make any changes. The AASC database is where we get all address lists, directory info, etc. For help updating, contact Marty Swain at 952-474-2466 or [mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu).

Among things to be discussed will be *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Says Jean: "Warning – it does have violent scenes in it, but the main character is fascinating and I'm sure many of you would have a lot to say about her." No need to have read this book to attend, but it's been very popular so will be fun to touch on.

Please bring suggestions for future books to read. The club has met at a coffee shop in the past but is going to try meeting in homes. All feedback welcome!

### Admissions News from the AACs\*

—Anna Mikelson

We have already started the recruiting process for 2011, with over 400 students throughout the state who have shown interest in Smith. Alumnae interviews are in the works, and we always welcome volunteers to help us conduct these fun encounters. If you're interested in interviewing a prospective student, contact me at [annamikelson@gmail.com](mailto:annamikelson@gmail.com). And come springtime, we'll be looking for volunteers to deliver roses to admitted students, one of our most popular traditions.

We held a lovely holiday tea for prospective students and their parents on January 2 at Peggy Leppik's home (thank you Peggy!). Ten prospectives, one of them a prospective Ada, attended. We also had two students who have already been accepted early decision! Six current students were there to answer questions about everything from their favorite traditions to the food on campus to their favorite classes and the academic rigors of Smith. They also had a few tales of Northampton nightlife that proved most entertaining! Most of the prospective students approached us afterward to arrange for interviews. The afternoon was a great success.

We have 36 Minnesota students currently enrolled at Smith, including eight new first years and one transfer.



### Oral History Project News

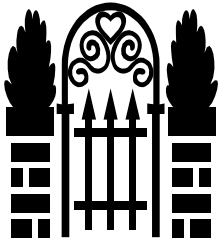
—Laurie Kramer '69

For the exciting phase 2 of our oral history project, we've now completed 10 interviews: Connie Donnelly, Polly Grose, Helen Hartfiel, Marnie Hensel, Nadine Ide, Peggy Leppik, Sally Ross, Ella Slade, Harriet Spencer, and Susan Allen Toth. At least six more interviews will be done, hopefully in the next couple of months.

We have great interview teams at work but could always use a few more volunteers. We now have a training video that should make the job easy to learn, and you'd have many mentors. Please contact Laurie, at [lkramer@minnpost.com](mailto:lkramer@minnpost.com), if you're interested.

\*Alumnae Admissions Coordinators





**Smith College Club of Minnesota**  
6400 Josephine Ave  
Edina, MN 55439

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit 258

Your JANUARY 2011 Issue

---

---

**[mnsmithclub@hotmail.com](mailto:mnsmithclub@hotmail.com)**  
**<http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/minnesota/>**

### Minnesota Smith News

■ For those of you who have been following and supporting Daniel and **Kathy ('79) Ollivier's** years-long quest of trying to adopt a child, there is a very happy outcome to announce! André Pierre Ollivier became part of the family on his 1st birthday, October 15, 2010. Kathy and Daniel spent 4 weeks in China when they picked him up. André had his naturalization ceremony on November 2, and his official Minnesota adoption decree was signed by club member Judge **Kathryn Quaintance '77!** How's that for a wonderful coincidence? Kathy reports that André recognizes the word "milk" in four languages! Here's a picture of Mom and babe.



■ And here's another new member of the Minneapolis community: **Barbara Knott '97** and her husband, Scott Mays, welcomed Ava Elizabeth Agnes Mays on October 12. Wonderful news!

■ Do you know a **Super Smithie**? Yes, all Smithies are super, of course. You may know one who would be a good candidate for a **Smith Medal**. Each year, medals are awarded to up to four alumnae "who, in the judgment of the trustees of the college, exemplify in their lives and work the true purpose of a liberal arts education." Jane Howard '75 currently chairs the committee that recommends candidates to the Board of Trustees. If you have a possible candidate or would like to know more about the Smith Medals, please contact her at 651-644-1874 or [jhoward@tnc.org](mailto:jhoward@tnc.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

*If you have any **NEWS**—about yourself or another area alumna—please contact Marty Swain at 952-474-2466 or [mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu). Also contact Marty if you'd like to place a **CLASSIFIED AD** in a future newsletter (3 lines free to dues-paying members). Ads are published on a space-available basis.*